AMENDMENTS

Please enter the following amendments:

In the Specification

Please amend the Specification as indicated below. The language being added is underlined ("___") and the language being deleted contains strikethrough ("—"):

For the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4:

SUMMARY

The invention is an improved system for communicating over a <u>communications channel</u> ~~digital subscriber line~~. The invention allows the transmission of fractional bit rates in a PAM transceiver, thus maximizing the use of signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) available on the communication channel and allowing the encoding and transmission of a fractional number of bits on each PAM transmit symbol. By encoding a non-integer number of bits, a non power-of-two number of PAM levels can be encoded.